

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

A1 [0004] An index ~~file~~ is commonly used by database management programs to provide quick and efficient associative access to a table's records. These indexes ~~files~~ are commonly configured in a B-Tree structure which includes a root node with many levels of nodes branching from the root node. The information contained in these nodes may include pointers which point to the nodes at the next level of the tree or it may include pointers which point to one or more records stored in the database. These pointers include additional key record information which may reference the records stored in the database. The record keys are stored in an ordered form throughout the nodes at the various branches of the tree. For example, an index tree may exist for an alphabetic listing of employee names.
